



State of Maryland

Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/Planning Council

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, DHMH

MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HYGIENE/ PL 102-321 PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

January 17, 2012

Maryland Advisory Council Members: M. Sue Diehl, Chair; Robert M. Pender, Vice-Chair; Mike Finkle, Joshana Goga, Livia Pazourek, Charles Reifsnider, Anita Solomon

Maryland Advisory Council Members Absent: Richard Blair, Jaimi L. Brown, Michele Forzley, Edwin C. Oliver, John Scharf, Anthony Swetz, Jr., Robert Turner, Sherrie Wilcox

Individuals highlighted as such are resigned members who have not yet been replaced.

PL 102-321 Council Members Present: Gerald Beemer, Sarah Burns, Coordinator; Herb Cromwell, Kate Farinholt, Kathy Fay for Lesa Diehl, Victor Henderson, Steven Kinney for Tracee Bryant, Joanne Meekins, Linda Raines, Phoenix Woody

PL 102-321 Council Members Absent: Lynn Albizo, Carol Allenza, T.E. Arthur, Naomi Booker, Peter Cohen, Chicquita Crawford, Lee Crump, Catherine Drake, A. Scott Gibson, Vira Froehlinger, Gerri Gray, Diane Herr, Julie Jerscheid, Cindy Kauffman, Michael Lang, Sharon Lipford, Coordinator; George Lipman, William Manahan, Dan Martin, Cynthia Petion, Jacqueline Powell, Sarah Rhine, Sheryl Sparer, Jane Walker, Kathleen Ward

MHA Staff Present: Tom Merrick, Henry Westray, Carole Frank, Robin Poponne, Iris Reeves, Greta Carter

Guests and Others: Christin Whitaker, DHMH-MFP (Money Follows the Person); John Turner, Dorchester General Hospital

c/o Mental Hygiene Administration

Spring Grove Hospital Center – 55 Wade Avenue – Dix Building – Catonsville MD 21228 – (410) 402-8473

TDD for Disabled – Maryland Relay Service (800) 735-2258

Healthy People in Healthy Communities

INTRODUCTIONS/ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair, Sue Diehl. Attendees introduced themselves with the inclusion of two new members, Gerald Beemer and Joanne Meekins. The draft minutes of the December 20, 2011 meeting were approved electronically on January 26, 2012. Please note that the approved/corrected minutes will be posted on MHA's Web site, www.dhmf.maryland.gov/mha. The Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene's link is listed under "Resources". Please note this is a redesigned Web site with interactive segments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) will host its annual Legislative Reception on February 8, 2012 from 3:00 to 7:30 pm at the Westin Annapolis Hotel. This event, *Behavioral Health: Change on the Horizon*, gives attendees opportunities to learn about upcoming legislation and hear from leaders on state and national health care reform efforts. For more information, contact MHAMD at www.mhamd.org.

THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Brian Hepburn, M.D., Executive Director of MHA, has been called away for other duties and was not able to deliver the report.

To enhance future Director Report highlights, Dr. Hepburn encourages members to submit questions on topics of interest to Cynthia Petion at cpetion@dhmf.state.md.us.

PRESENTATION – SUICIDE PREVENTION INITIATIVES IN MARYLAND – Henry Westray, MHA Office of Child & Adolescent Services

Mr. Westray provided an overview of national and state data on suicide deaths and rates.

Nationally:

- Elderly individuals have the highest rate of suicide in the nation
- Suicide ranks 10th as a cause of death ahead of homicide which ranks 15th in the nation
- Suicide is the third leading cause of death in the nation among individuals aged 15-24

In Maryland, based on statistics from 2007-2011:

- There are nine suicides per 100,000 people
- Although the elderly rate is high, 60% of all suicides occur among individuals age 20-24, 81% of whom are male
- More youth, especially females, are using hanging as a means, possible because of the efforts to limit access to firearms; while elderly are increasingly using more lethal means
- There was a sharp increase in suicides by youth and adult individuals in 2009. The reason for this spike is only speculation at this time

Mr. Westray gave a description of appropriate post-vention protocol (follow-up activities and sessions held with peers, family, other survivors – especially in schools and workplaces).

MHA received \$1.5 million from SAMHSA to enhance the development of local partnerships in suicide prevention and intervention across the state. Mr. Westray gave an overview of projects established based on sub-awards granted to 24 school, county, and community organizations for training, outreach, and awareness.

Other resources include:

The Maryland Commission on Suicide Prevention Web site:

www.dhmh.maryland.gov/suicideprevention

www.help4MDyouth.org and

The Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline: 24/7 hotline network at 1-800-422-0009

PREVIEW OF THE 2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Herb Cromwell, CBH, led a short discussion of possible issues to look for in the upcoming session including bills concerning re-entry of ex-offenders into the community, health benefits related to Health Care Reform, and assessment of MHA's relationship with the Managed Care Organizations. Linda Raines, MHAMD and Kate Farinholt, NAMI MD also participated in the discussion and will each have packets of information with proposed bills in the near future.

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

It was announced that the Council will need two people to give testimony at the Hearings on MHA's budget in Annapolis in February. The Senate Budget Hearing will take place on February 10th at 1:00 pm and the House Hearing will take place on February 13th at 3:00 pm. People who previously testified described the process and gave advice. Linda Raines said that sometime advocates sit at a table panel style and that could include the Joint Council Representative. Gerald Beemer volunteered and one more member will be invited to participate.

The following changes, additions, and amendments to the Joint Council By-laws were mailed and emailed to the membership prior to today's meeting.

- Legislative Committee – change in description
- Planning committee/Annual Report – blended description
- Cultural Competence Advisory Group (CCAG) – added description
- Membership Committee – added description

Two members requested clarification on parts of the addition of the CCAG to the By-Laws. As a result, this segment will be voted on in the March meeting. The membership voted to accept the changes in the Legislative, Planning, and Membership Committee sections. Once the updates are completed, the document will be disseminated.

The Planning and Executive Committee members will meet after the general meeting to discuss items to be included in the testimony before the Legislature.

The meeting was adjourned.

Please note, the Agenda for the March 20th Council meeting will be posted on the Advisory's Council's web page, under the resources section, on MHA's Web site www.dhmh.maryland.gov/mha .